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MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF EXTERNAL POLICY

UNGA Resolution 79/59 on "Information on Confidence-Building Measures in the Field of Conventional Arms"

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) at its 79th session, on Resolution «Information on Confidence-Building Measures in the Field of Conventional Arms», underlining that confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms are key tools in strengthening conflict prevention and reducing armed violence, invites Member States to submit to the Secretariat, on a voluntary basis, information on confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms.

Portugal considers that Confidence-Building Measures (CBMs) are a vital element to increase trust, prevent conflicts and reinforce transparency among States not only regarding their conventional military capabilities and military spending, but also observing arms imports and exports. The implementation of CBMs fosters compliance with arms control agreements, minimizes misperceptions, miscalculation and escalation, and promotes regional and international stability and security, upholding both the NPD architecture and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

To this matter and on a voluntary and reciprocal basis, practical CBMs in the field of conventional weapons may include the establishment of direct channels of communication, reciprocal appointment of points of contact, interagency cooperation that promote periodic exchange of information, and the notification of troop movements and military maneuvers and military constraint measures, as recommended in the United Nations Disarmament Commission 2017 report.

In the context of Conventional Arms, Portugal fully complies with the European Union Council Common Position 2008/944/CFSP, which sets out common rules governing exports control of military technology and equipment to all Member-States, in respect for international peace, security, and Human Rights. Besides the EU Common Position, Portugal also collects national data on export of conventional weapons, which submits to the European Union for its annual report.

Within the framework of the United Nations, Portugal provides information on the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), the Convention on Cluster

Munitions (CCM), the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (Ottawa Convention) and the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (UN PoA on SALW) and its International Tracing Instrument (ITI). Furthermore, Portugal reports to the UN Report on Military Expenditures (MilEx) and the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms (UNROCA).

Portugal's reporting activities include the OSCE, in the scope of anti-personnel landmines, conventional arms and arms exports to the EU, the Arms Trade Treaty on exports and imports of conventional arms, and the Wassenaar Arrangement on Exports Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies, considering the role of this multilateral export control regime in contributing to regional and international security and stability.

Portugal further recognizes the growing importance of digitalization and secure information management systems in enhancing the effectiveness of CBMs. The use of interoperable digital platforms, standardized reporting formats and secure communication channels contributes to improving the timeliness, reliability and accessibility of shared information, thereby strengthening transparency and reducing the risks associated with delayed or incomplete data exchange. In this regard, Portugal supports international efforts aimed at modernizing reporting mechanisms and promoting the adoption of innovative technological solutions that facilitate real-time information sharing among relevant stakeholders.

In addition, Portugal underscores the relevance of regional and subregional frameworks as complementary instruments to global CBM initiatives. Regional organizations and cooperative security arrangements play a crucial role in fostering dialogue, promoting transparency and addressing region-specific security concerns through tailored measures. Portugal encourages the reinforcement of regional mechanisms that enable joint consultations, voluntary observation of military activities and the exchange of best practices, contributing to the consolidation of trust and the prevention of misunderstandings that may lead to escalation.

Portugal also highlights the value of promoting predictability and transparency in military doctrines, procurement planning and force development policies, as these elements contribute significantly to reducing uncertainty among States. Voluntary exchanges of information related to defense planning cycles, military modernization programmes and relevant policy frameworks may further enhance mutual understanding and support the development of a stable and cooperative security environment. Such practices reinforce confidence among States and contribute to the long-term sustainability of international peace and security.

Voluntary exchange of information on national legislation, public policies, and competent structures relating to the control of conventional arms, small arms,

and ammunition is carried out through the National Firearms Focal Points. This cooperation is further reinforced through bilateral, regional, and multilateral initiatives aimed at combating the illicit trafficking of arms, including participation in international platforms such as EMPACT, Europol, Interpol, and the OSCE.

Additional measures include voluntary weapons collection and destruction programs, as well as the use of the IMI (Internal Market Information System) application as a mechanism for administrative cooperation and internal market oversight within the European Union, enabling the rapid and secure exchange of information between competent authorities regarding the circulation, commercialization, and verification of operators and controlled products.